

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An induction heating system for heating metal strips, using a longitudinal magnetic flux, the heating system comprising: an inductor surrounding the strip; and two magnetic field deflectors located inside coils of the inductor, the shape and arrangement of the deflectors masking the inductor coils at edges of the strip .
2. (Previously Presented) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deflectors are U-shaped, with branches covering the edges of the strip to be heated.
3. (Previously Presented) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deflectors are positioned along all or part of the length of the inductor.
4. (Previously Presented) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, together with U-shaped screens located inside the inductor having ends which are shaped so as to increase their effectiveness.